

# *The* CRISIS

MAY, 1955

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## Race In The Armed Services

SAUL ACKERMAN

## The Credit Union And The NAACP

VIRNA M. CANSON

## Richmond Public Schools Support NAACP

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# THE CRISIS

Founded 1910  
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## A RECORD OF THE DARKER RACES

Editor: James W. Ivy

Editorial Advisory Board: Lewis S. Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn,  
Sterling A. Brown, Walter White, Carl Murphy

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# Walter White—Life Of a Busy NAACP Executive



**THE FIRST** scientific study of American lynching, *Rope and Faggot*, was written by Walter White. Thirty-six year-old Mr. White at the time Knopf issued his book in 1929. Just twelve days after Mr. White joined the staff of the NAACP on January 31, 1918, he began his historic investigations of lynchings.

*AFTER a year's leave of absence, June 1, 1949, to May 31, 1950, Mr. White returned to his desk with renewed zeal.*







**RAISING FUNDS** to carry on the fight for civil rights was one phase of Walter White's work as NAACP executive secretary. Mr. White (second from right) chats with the late Canada Lee at the NAACP Madison Square Garden Benefit given on March 6, 1952. From left, William ("Billy") Rowe, then seventh deputy police commissioner of New York City, and actress Tallulah Bankhead.



**MR. WHITE** brings the NAACP message to the audience of more than 15,000 people who attended the NAACP Madison Square Garden Benefit, New York City. Such appeals as this have kept the work of the Association before the public.



HE kept in close touch with the work of Association branches and regions. He gets a first-hand report on West Coast NAACP activities from Dr. E. I. Robinson, president at the time of the Los Angeles, California, branch.

HE always stressed the influence of foreign relations upon domestic problems, racial, and otherwise. Here he chats with Harold E. Stassen, formerly Mutual Security Administrator, at the 44th annual convention of the NAACP held in St. Louis, Missouri, in June, 1953.



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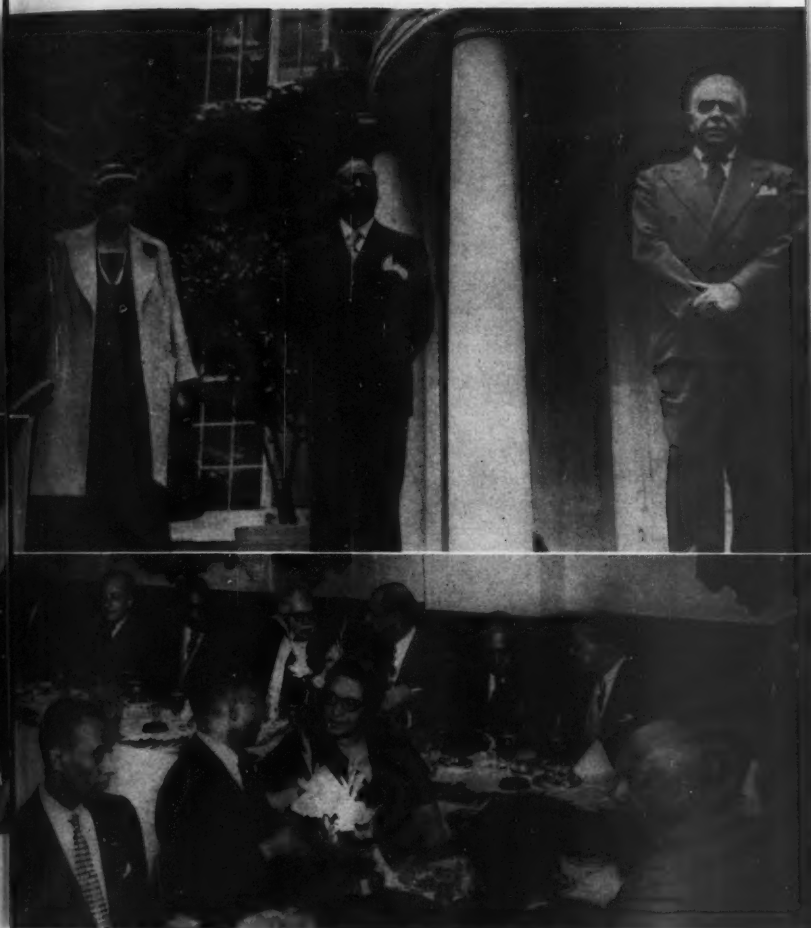
HE makes his first public appearance, after his hospitalization October, 1954, as he arrives at Freedom House in New York City to address the 45th annual meeting of the Association held on January 3, 1955. Mrs. Will Sweeny (right), assistant to executive secretary of Freedom House, George Fields, greets him.



**WALTER WHITE** led the seven-month NAACP battle to secure justice for Isaac Woodard (left), Negro GI blinded in 1946 by Leonard L. Shull, chief of the Batesburg, South Carolina, police department. Dr. Channing H. Tobias (second from right) and an unidentified man confer with Mr. Woodard. As a lobbyist for civil rights, Mr. White ranked with the best. Here he is surrounded by reporters as he leaves a conference with president-elect Eisenhower in the Hotel Commodore in New York City on November 28, 1952.

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WORKING with A. Philip Randolph (center), president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (AFL), Mr. White helped to secure from President Roosevelt, in June 1941, the now-famous Executive Order 8802, creating the wartime FEPC. He participates in Hyde Park FEPC commemoration in June 1951 with Mrs. Roosevelt (left). As a campaigner for Negro rights, he worked closely with his staff and the NAACP board as in this fight for freedom dinner held at the C & L Restaurant in New York City on January 3, 1954.



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**DR. CHANNING H. TOBIAS**, chairman of NAACP board of directors, delivers eulogy at funeral of Walter White held in St. Martin's Protestant Episcopal Church, New York City, on March 24, 1955. Dr. Tobias said that the "true story of Walter White's services is found written in the hearts of those whom he helped to liberate from the bondage of second-class citizenship."

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*MRS. POPPY CANNON WHITE (center), widow of Mr. White, accompanied by her son, Alfred, and older daughter, Cynthia, leave St. Martin's Church following the last rites for her husband.*



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GOVERNOR  
*Battle,*



←  
AMONG  
*Bunch*



**MANY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS CAME  
TO PAY A LAST TRIBUTE TO MR. WHITE**

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GOVERNOR AVERELL HARRIMAN *of New York and Mrs. Harriman leave St. Martin's Church following the funeral rites.*

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GOVERNOR AVERELL HARRIMAN, *Mrs. Harriman, Commissioner Samuel Battle, unidentified man, Judge Francis E. Rivers, and Mrs. Lillie Jackson, president of the Baltimore branch and NAACP board member.*

---

AMONG the 2,000 persons attending the funeral were, from left, Mrs. Ralph Bunche, Ann Fogarty, the designer, and her husband, Tom Fogarty. Mrs. Fogarty is the sister of Mrs. Walter White.

*Photographs by Layne*



*Loyne*

**LEADING** pallbearers out of St. Martin's at the funeral of Mr. White are the Hon. Hubert T. Delany, judge in New York City's Domestic Relations Court, and Arthur B. Spingarn of New York, NAACP president. Bottom, at left, Atty. A. T. Walden of Atlanta, Ga., Dr. Price-Mars of the Haitian delegation to UN, and Atty. Z. A. Looby of Nashville, Tenn.

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**SEEK SPEEDY INTEGRATION**—Louis J. Redding (left), of Wilmington, Delaware, and Thurgood Marshall of New York City, confer at the Supreme Court on Monday, April 11, during a recess in the court's hearing on racial integration in the public schools. Redding, representing Negro pupils in Delaware, and Marshall, NAACP special counsel, contend quick integration should be ordered by the court. Arguments on desegregation ended Thursday, April 14.





ROY WILKINS

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# Roy Wilkins

## New NAACP Head

**T**HE board of directors of the NAACP on April 11, 1955, unanimously named Roy Wilkins to succeed Walter White as executive secretary of the Association. Mr. White died on March 21, 1955. Announcement of the appointment was made by Arthur Spingarn, NAACP president, at NAACP headquarters in New York City on the afternoon of the appointment.

"The honor of serving as Executive Secretary of the NAACP," said Mr. Wilkins after official announcement of his appointment, "is a very great one and I am deeply grateful for the confidence which the Board of Directors has shown by its unanimous vote on April 11. I appreciate, also, the many expressions of interest and cooperation which have come from over the country, from within and without the NAACP family.

"The brilliant leadership of Walter White has brought us far on the road to first-class citizenship. The challenge of the day is to finish the work to which he gave his life and to realize not later than 1963, the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, the abolition of all forms of racial discrimination and segregation.

"To that objective I pledge all my spirit and all my energies. I am confident that the NAACP staff and the dedicated men and women who constitute the state and local officers and the great body of members will continue in the crusade to attain our goals. We rely, also, as we have in the past, upon the friendly support of interested individuals and organized groups.

"The effort will be pressed with unabated zeal, with all the skill we can muster, and in the spirit that our cause is one with the ideal of Western Democratic Society. Our strength is in it; and its strength, spiritually and physically, is in us. We cannot fail."

NAACP board chairman Dr. Channing H. Tobias issued the following statement on Mr. Wilkins' appointment:

"He is a man of unquestioned integrity, unusual ability and undisputed loyalty to the cause that he is serving. It was only a question of whether he would be elected immediately or ultimately. The Board decided on immediacy. That had the advantage of saving the organization from political pitfalls. It is significant that the vote was unanimous."

Mr. Wilkins has been administrator of the NAACP since 1950. This position, however, has been abolished by the board's action in appointing Mr. Wilkins to succeed Mr. White, and the functions of administrator are now combined with those of the executive secretaryship. The board actions were taken at its regular April meeting and Mr. Wilkins assumed his new responsibilities immediately.

Mr. Wilkins joined the staff of the NAACP in 1931 as assistant executive secretary and was editor of *The Crisis* (as well as assistant secretary) from 1934 to 1949. He has traveled throughout the country and has spoken before clubs, forums, college groups, associations and conventions on various aspects of race relations.

Mr. Wilkins came to the NAACP with a broad knowledge of race relations gained through years of newspaper experience. From 1923 to 1931 he was managing editor of *The Call*, Negro weekly of Kansas City, Mo. In December 1941 he was one of twenty Negro editors invited to Washington by the War Department to consult on the training and use of Negro soldiers.

He has made a number of investigations for the NAACP, including a probe in 1932 (as a laborer) of working conditions in construction camps along the Mississippi levees, a survey of the treatment of Negro flood refugees in the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys in 1937, and tours of a number of Army camps in the far west and southwest in 1942.

His radio and television experience include appearances on numerous radio stations across the country, a one-year stint as a panel member of the weekly program "Pride and Prejudice" on Station WEVD, New York, and a number of television discussions in major cities.

Mr. Wilkins was one of the NAACP consultants to the American delegation at the formation of the United Nations in San Francisco in May, 1945.

He has written a number of pamphlets and magazine articles. He is the author of one of the chapters in the book, *What the Negro Wants*, published by the University of North Carolina Press. He is also co-author with W. E. Debnam of the pamphlet *Segregation*.

Mr. Wilkins was acting secretary of the NAACP from June 1, 1949, to May 31, 1950, during Walter White's leave of absence. During this period he was chairman of the National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilization, composed of more than 100 national and local groups who sent 4,218 delegates from 33 states to Washington in January, 1950, in the interest of fair employment practice legislation (FEPC) and other civil rights bills. By vote of the board of directors on May 8, 1950, he was named administrator of the Association.

He was reared and educated in St. Paul, Minn., where he finished the public schools and was graduated from the University of Minnesota.



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# The Credit Union and the NAACP

By Virna M. Canson

MANY of the major legal battles of the Negro people have already been won in such decisions as the May 17, 1954, Supreme Court decision; the Supreme Court decision eliminating restrictive covenants; school cases on the college level in earlier decisions.

Yet discrimination and segregation are still with us. The battles we have won in the courts can be lost in our day-to-day living unless we awake to the more subtle forms of discrimination—the deliberate grouping of Negroes in certain areas to live, and particularly discrimination in employment where the Negro and other minorities are denied the right to make a decent living.

It thus behooves the average wage earner in minority groups and all groups to make wise use of his earnings. This is where the Credit Union

can be of greatest service. The Credit Union idea grew out of a group of farmers in Germany who had met with hardship and oppression; one of the leading Credit Unions in the United States today was organized by a Negro school teacher in the South. The members are, or should we say were, poor sharecroppers. Through their Credit Union they have been able to buy farm machinery and other necessities and some luxuries for their homes and families.

The basic economic problems of day-to-day living which confront most people are even more a threat to the Negro family because he works in an air of uncertainty. He is the last hired and the first fired. Negroes are easy victims of the "easy credit boys"—the loan sharks. It has been our experience in our work in Sacramento to find that one department store which charges a 10 percent carrying charge on its accounts and which, even though the

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VIRNA M. CANSON is a member of the Sacramento, California, branch of the NAACP.

customer may pay his account in full by a total cash payment before his contract expires, does not refund one cent in interest. The amount of patronage from minority people this store has is appalling. In thinking further about this situation and many others — the loan sharks and the discriminatory lending practices of banks and other lending agencies, one will readily conclude that the answer to these problems is a thorough educational program, one which can be brought to the lower level, intellectually, of our race, for here are the victims of these practices. How then, does the NAACP Credit Union work toward solving these problems?

#### CREDIT UNIONS

An NAACP Credit Union is in position to approach the race problems at the level where it is most acute and where for generations factions have been at work to perpetuate segregation and discrimination for selfish reasons. The NAACP Credit Union works at the economic level. There must be some way to help the average person avoid the economic pitfalls which year after year keep him at the same place or further behind. There is a way through the Credit Union for the average wage earner to enjoy insurance benefits without having to pay premiums commensurate with his salary, and in some cases premiums which have been increased simply because he is a Negro, if he is able to get the insurance at all.

In these times when the way has been opened up on the legal front; when the highest Court in the land has said in simple, yet almost poetic,

language that discrimination and segregation are wrong, it becomes the duty of our organization, and other organizations engaged in this fight, to begin to prepare the average Negro to launch out on this new road from which many of the high hurdles have been removed.

An NAACP Credit Union in every branch would work miracles in achieving equality. How can a man send his child to the university to prepare himself if he has not made proper financial preparation; if he has been constantly victimized by loan sharks when he needed money; what can he do to insure his family's security after his death? How will he ever be able to come out of the ghetto or buy in the new tracts if he cannot get credit. If he is continuously forced to put his meager savings where he cannot enjoy full benefit from them, where the interest earned is meager, and the interest paid is great; where the earnings of this institution are never brought back to him through jobs for himself or his children; where the demand is for collateral which he cannot provide, frequently through no fault of his own.

Through its plan to borrow to create an estate the Credit Union provides over \$2000 worth of security for only \$10 each month for ten years. In addition to the borrower having \$1000 in shares in his Credit Union he has the protection that if he should die or become totally disabled while he is still paying his 10 monthly payments, the balance of his loan is paid off, and he or his family receives the thousand in shares, plus another thousand in insurance. Dividends on the \$1000 are paid at

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whatever rate of interest the Credit Union declares. Our Credit Union has paid 3 per cent for the past four years. Twenty-five per cent of the 187 outstanding loans in our Sacramento branch NAACP Credit Union are life estate loans. This means assets of some \$30,000; it means income for the Credit Union of some \$150 in interest, and even more it means that 23 per cent of our NAACP Credit Union members have security in the amount of at least \$60,000.

#### PROVIDENT PURPOSES

The other 77 per cent of our loans outstanding total some \$29,000, and this money has been loaned for widely diverse purposes. The law states that a credit union loan must be granted for a provident purpose. The interpretation of this clause is left to the discretion of the five persons who make up the credit committee of a credit union. We in Sacramento have the good fortune to have a credit committee composed of persons whose first concern is to help, but who do not lose sight of the advisability, or inadvisability, of making the loan in view of certain practical aspects such as the person's income and his present indebtedness.

Income and present indebtedness have been one of the main purposes for many of the loans which we call consolidation loans. These loans are made when, for various reasons, a member has gotten behind with several monthly payments on contracts or other accounts.

In November, 1954, we made a consolidation loan of \$572 to a young man who came in quite depressed because he had gotten be-

hind in payments on a loan he already had with the Credit Union, as well as with other accounts at stores downtown. His case was somewhat different from the average because when he had enjoyed better days financially he had saved with the Credit Union so that his shares amounted to over \$250. He came in to withdraw enough of his shares to pay his Credit Union loan, which was \$168. It was immediately apparent that while this would certainly take care of the Credit Union this would not answer this man's overall financial needs at this time.

An analysis of his affairs revealed he had married recently, thus incurring bills he had not anticipated. He had a balance of \$20 at a furniture store where he paid \$12 a month. He was paying \$21 a month on the wedding ring and had a balance of \$97. He had a balance of \$20 on his automobile repair bill, several other small accounts where he was paying from ten to twenty dollars a month, and his monthly payment to the Credit Union was \$25 a month. He had a total of about \$75 in monthly payments, with his bills scattered as they were. He accepted our recommendation to borrow to consolidate his bills and made an application for a loan for \$572 for 24 months. We made his monthly payments \$22 each. His Credit Union shares were left intact to draw the full dividend at the end of the year; he had the difference between \$22 a month and \$75 per month; the rate of interest on his loan was far less than what it would have been at any other lending institution, and the loan of \$572 is insured so that should anything hap-

pen to this member, total disability or death, the loan balance is paid by insurance.

#### HEALTH BILLS

Hospital bills and doctor bills are very frequently the purpose for which money is loaned from our Credit Union. Mr. X came in two months ago, somewhat reluctantly, because he had a balance on his loan which had only been made the first of the year. He came in in January and asked to borrow \$350 to pay the balance of the hospital bill, the doctor's bill and the funeral bill. His baby had died at birth, and the expense of caring for his wife had run quite high. The loan was granted. Mrs. X is now expecting again, and Mr. X is quite concerned that she receives the best of care. So, he came to his NAACP Credit Union for help. He applied for money to pay his loan balance at the Credit Union; to pay in advance the hospital and the doctor's bill and for money to send for his wife's mother to come out to be with her. On closer investigation we discovered his doctor's bill would be \$125 if paid in advance and \$150 if paid after the birth of the child. Not only had his Credit Union come to his aid in time of need, but had actually saved him \$25 which the family could little afford to pay.

Provident purposes as interpreted by our Credit Committee have included loans for vacations, tuitions in school, fences around homes, small down payments on homes, money to buy a stock of records for a new business, large traffic tickets, clothes for the children, radios, money to save families from home foreclosures,

churches and church groups and the expansion of the program of our local branch in the field of employment.

#### NAACP MEMBERSHIPS

There may be many in the community who would never be enlisted in the fight through a direct NAACP membership drive or through an appeal for the freedom fund, but who may be brought in through having been able to come to his NAACP branch's Credit Union and receive help when he had financial difficulty. This has been brought out very plainly in our Credit Union's history because each year between 100 and 150 persons become new NAACP members through having applied either for loans or to open a savings with the Credit Union. We expect the number to increase because our board of directors has voted to require co-makers as well as makers to be NAACP members. Our procedure is that the applicant must be an NAACP member before he can join the Credit Union. Both these memberships may be taken at the same time. The person is then asked to deposit at least \$5 in shares before he is eligible to apply for a loan. In order to sustain the membership gains made through the Credit Union the treasurer of the Credit Union and branch membership chairman should work very closely together on renewals.

If more of our branches could afford executive secretaries the overall program of the NAACP would be stepped up considerably. The reason we do not have more people in this capacity, particularly in the

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smaller branches, is that the branch cannot afford to hire them. The Credit Union can be an aid at this point because while it will not pay a full salary at the beginning, the amount it can pay a treasurer could be matched or supplemented by money from the branch and thus provide a paid worker. Among the hard working nuclei of every branch there should be that individual who has worked with the branch, and who would carry on this combined duty effectively, and as the Credit Union and branch grow more help may be employed.

The Sacramento branch NAACP Credit Union is now five years old with a membership of 385. We have made over 500 loans which amount to over \$175,000. The assets of the Credit Union are \$65,000.

How the Credit Union movement furthers the work of the NAACP can never really be accurately measured. It is as bread cast upon the waters. Certainly, a simple plan of

economic betterment to go along hand in hand with the program of the NAACP can lead to lasting gains in this fight for the democratic ideal to prevail. The hard won victories will not be lost by a people economically prepared for their new role.

The Credit Union in your branch can mean:

- a source of credit for members at low interest rates;

- a safe place to save with insurance on the savings at no extra cost, plus dividends;

- a source of credit for other organizations and institutions in your community as well as a place for their deposits;

- a source of new members for the branch;

- a means for creating branch offices and paid workers;

- a source of insurance for branch members at reasonable rates;

- and a means of expanding the scope of branch activities.

## A GREAT NEW DAY FOR AMERICANS

# NAACP FREEDOM DAY — May 17

This is the day the Supreme Court granted a new birth of freedom to public education. The day you can do something to win further rights for America's racial minorities.

# Richmond Public Schools Support NAACP

**T**WELVE Richmond, Virginia, public schools gave practical support to the program and work of the NAACP by contributing a total of \$506.84 from the sale of 1954 NAACP Christmas seals. The branch itself, including the schools, made a total contribution of \$1,-005.66 from the sale of seals.

Contributions from the individual schools were as follows:

Albert V. Norrell .....	\$125.00
George Washington Carver..	88.41
George Mason .....	87.92
James H. Blackwell.....	49.25

West End School.....	40.20
Maggie Walker High School	30.00
Armstrong High School.....	28.31
Webster Davis .....	19.00
Buchanan .....	13.00
Booker T. Washington High School .....	10.00
J. Andrew Bowler .....	10.00
Mary Scott .....	4.50
Baker .....	2.15
Radolph Junior High School	0.00
Benjamin A. Graves Junior High School .....	0.00

**\$506.84**



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LOUIS FREEMAN, JR., a pupil in the Albert V. Norrell Elementary School, Richmond, Virginia, presents a check for \$125 from NAACP Christmas seal sales to Dr. J. M. Tinsley, local branch president and NAACP board member. Pupils in the right-hand picture are from the George Washington Carver School but they are not named.

←  
ROSE JACKSON (left) hands check for \$40.20 to teacher Mrs. O. N. Hazell of the West End Elementary School for sale of NAACP Christmas seals. The two boys, from left, are Percy Lee and Irvin Willis. The pupils of the West End school worked zealously during the Christmas season to reach a goal of at least \$50 in the sale of seals. Of the money they did raise, Mrs. Hazell's third graders brought in \$16.45.



MRS. EULALIA W. ELLIS, faculty member, and Principal Joseph T. Bright of the George Mason School present a check for \$87.92 for the 1954 NAACP Christmas seal campaign. The George Mason school, located in Church Hill on North 28th Street is the largest Negro elementary school in Richmond, Virginia. This school has had one hundred percent faculty NAACP membership for fifteen consecutive years.

*Representatives of the James H. Blackwell School at right are not named.*



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# Race In The Armed Services

By Saul Ackerman

**T**O begin with, the observations I relate are strictly my own, which were made while serving with the U.S. Navy for a period of three years. They are not in any sense "official," as if reported upon by a deputation assigned by the government to make a study into inter-racial affairs. The things I saw are written here in the capacity of private sailor, so to speak, and the experiences I had with others of a different race are set down only as they influenced me and those immediately connected with me.

Prior to entering the service in 1949 I was attending college. I was told that when I went into the Navy, I would discover prejudices that were keenly acute, more so because I would be thrown in with men of every possible description and origin, and not be with those with whom I had grown up. To leave a liberal

educational institution, where creed and color were of no consequence whatsoever, to leave friends who were considered by the I.Q. Tests to be above the average, to leave all this and become one of the uniformed masses, would leave me open to things which I had remotely heard of, but had never experienced.

Those who informed me of the rash step I was about to undertake were not referring to a bigotry that would be directed against me, in particular. I am white, and would not be subjected to animosities that colored people are. However, all of us at school were sensitive to the problems of the Negro, and an insult directed at Him is almost tantamount to one thrown at Us. Therefore, if I were of the stuff that could not put up with such overt dislike, it would be best for me to stay where I was, and spare myself the trouble of seeing how human beings are treated by those too ignorant to realize the absence of difference between mem-

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SAUL ACKERMAN lives in the Bronx, New York City.

bers of the human race. However, I had made up my mind, and so enlisted as planned.

During boot training I was placed in a Company of 60, most of us from the northeastern states. Among the group were two Negro boys, and I anticipated some of the trouble that had been prophesied. None was forthcoming. We underwent our training as a body, everyone got along with his fellows wonderfully well, and for three months we lived no differently from the way we had lived at home. The arguments that *did* arise were not of a racial nature, but sprang out of those inconveniences which men are subjected to when they have to live so close together.

#### RETALIATORY HOSTILITY

If Joe received a letter from home informing him that his girl friend had decided to leave him, Joe would naturally project his loss against the boy next to him; and if that boy happened to be Charlie, a Negro, no one thought that Joe's wrath was aroused by the other's color. Charlie was a man like the rest of us, and just happened to be there when Joe's disappointment materialized. It could have been Bill or Andy or Mark, had either of them been in the vicinity when Joe exploded. But Charlie was convenient at the moment. No words of derision, no insults. Just plain orneriness on Joe's part brought to life at receipt of the letter.

When I came home on leave, I visited my school friends, and the conversation turned to their prophesy, which was obviated by what I told them of my boot camp experiences.

They seemed incredulous. How was it that in a group of 60 men, only two of which were Negroes, there was no prejudice? Impossible. Well, perhaps it was because most of the boys were from the North, and also, there was no "problem," there being so few colored in our ranks. Wait till I get South, or among Southerners. I'd see bigotry at its worst, then, I was just lucky this time.

Upon return from leave, I was sent to Norfolk to join an Air Squadron, and with me came one of the Negro boys who had been through training in my company. He had been born and brought up in Connecticut, and was obviously uneasy about having to put in time in Virginia. He felt left-out, as the others on the troop train gabbed about the liberties they were going to pull in Norfolk proper, away from the Base. When we arrived, we were taken to the Air Station and our new home, and nothing seemed changed from the way it was in Boot Camp. There was no segregation among the sailors. We ate together, slept in adjacent bunks, and it was obvious that the days of the Negro's place in the Navy as Steward's Mate only were over.

Negroes were becoming boat-swain's mates, yeomen, aircraft mechanics, and every other rate that was open to whites were open to Negroes. That is, on the Base itself. Outside the gates we encountered the vestiges of Klan doctrine and white supremacy.

Signs restricting certain areas to caucasians were prominent. I had known that they *did* exist, but it made me feel strange to *see* them. They didn't apply to me—I was one

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of the privileged, but I had a sensation of emptiness, nevertheless. The same people who were responsible for the existence of such ignorance incarnate might someday specify me and mine as one of the unfortunates designated by the restrictive signs. I also noticed that after a certain hour all whites had to be out of the Negro section of the city. Why, I was never told, officially told, that is. But rumor had it that it was dangerous to be in the area mentioned if you had white skin — after the sun went down. Riding on the bus during the day, I happened to go through this area, and the squalor was evident.

#### ENFORCED POVERTY

Is it any wonder that people living in such poverty would attempt some sort of violence against those who enforced this poverty? A hungry, bitter man doesn't ask whether you've ever done anything for him. He strikes, and if his blow hits the mark, his vengeance is momentarily satiated. Strangely enough, however, no crimes were committed against anyone in the Negro section while I was in Norfolk. All the shootings and stabbings occurred over in the white portion of the city, where white supremacy was given the no-limit sign. The superior race was having a field-day on its own.

On the Base there reigned a democracy that the fair city of Norfolk could not deprive it of. If you entered a bus, regardless of color, you sat where there was a place available, front or back. Those who shouted that the service was a marvelous example of militaristic fascism, that it took away a man's op-

portunity to express himself, that it subjected him to harsh and unfair discipline, were usually those who condoned the *white only principle* outside the gates. Say what you will about the military, there's a purer democracy in the ranks, insofar as non-discrimination is concerned, than there is among the civilian hierarchy. Notwithstanding, we had our instigators and bigots. We found them in the persons of boys from Atlanta, Detroit, Birmingham, Chicago, Jackson, Bangor, Orlando and New York.

And invariably these men were the ones with the lowest classification marks, the least education, and the biggest inferiority complexes. They were low, and needed someone lower to appease their outraged consciences. "Tain't right fer a white man frum a goddam good home ter take up with a nigger. They ain't eddicated, they ain't. They the nearest things ter a gerilla yer can find." The ones who would saunter into the city, in the attempt to make a play for what is termed a decent girl, and meet with a rebuke, would be the ones to ask you, "Would you want your sister to marry a nigger?" The mechanical genius who would screw a sparkplug into one of the airplane engines the wrong way, and have it repaired by one of the Negro mechanics, would be the first to remark, "I wouldn't trust one of those boys on my own plane. They don't know nuthin'."

#### EASY WAY OUT

The bigots I encountered, like all the rest of their kind, lacked something which they could not find to supplement the rest of their char-

acter. Rather than face up to the absence of this attribute or the other, they took the easy way out, projecting their ailment against a group that was not numerous enough to hold its own. Like Joe, the boy minus his girlfriend, they lashed out in confusion, but unlike Joe, they chose a specific target, not anyone who just happened to be there.

The men who were afflicted with this most pernicious of social diseases were usually the most unpopular, even among the whites. They were bullies and ignoramuses, and thought to curry favor with the rest of us by picking on the Negroes. Discovering that their endeavors were unappreciated by the others, they turned to other pursuits, but continued to harbor the grudge against those whose skins were dark, waiting for someone to come along who would agree with their idiotic doctrines. If a Negro came in after taps, drunk and somewhat rowdy, the whispers would circulate among the diseased that the niggers didn't let us sleep. The same man who would spout against them would undoubtedly return the next night, and make a racket that would awaken the entire barracks, let alone our one compartment. But that was all right. After all, a white man has every right in the world to raise a little hell now and then.

But, as was said, except for these few and scattered imbeciles, relations among the races were good, if not excellent. We worked together, talked together, laughed and cursed together, and on weekends, when we would often hit for home, we breathed sighs of relief when the bus would roar over the Mason-Dixon

line and we could sit together again.

In 1951 I was transferred to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and it was here that I realized that little by little the uniform was becoming the Great Equalizer, much more so than it had been in the United States. In this Republic, where there is practically no distinction whatever between races, the Negro came into his own. The towns did not proudly display the signs of restriction, and those of us going on liberty would not have to separate when off the base. We hit the same bars, the same houses, the same streets, the same sections. If sailors were not particularly loved in the upper part of the city, it was not because of color. If one was polite and not rowdy, he could be purple with scales, and still be admitted in friendliness to the realm of the Cuban National. But not this so much was what made me hopeful for a new future for the Negro, but what was happening among the very men who, years earlier, would have squirmed to have had to sit next to a Negro at table.

#### NEGRO INFERIOR

I had come to know two boys who hailed from the Pine Country of Georgia. Nurtured on the propaganda that the Negro is inferior, they had come into the Navy with that idea, and for some time, according to them, had deplored having to sleep next to colored boys, and sit with them in the mess hall and the movie lyceums on the base. One of these boys now told me that he intended becoming a social science teacher upon his discharge from the service and "convert" the people

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back home who were still of the opinion that there is a vast difference between the white and the black. This, coming from a southern pine lad, was an indication that things were bound to improve. Living with the Negro had shown him that the same sun shines on all of us, that the same blood flows in our veins, and that if we belong to any race, it's the human race, without any other distinction. Working with the Negro had shown him that the latter could do no less than he, if only the same amount of education and application had been supplied to both. If a Negro was retarded, he realized that education and inherent intelligence were responsible, not color of skin. This I do not surmise that the Georgia boy thought; this was told to me by him. And when, occasionally, the boy would revert for a moment to his old ways, he would check himself and tell me that he would have to fight the prejudice that would spring up in him at recurring times. It's hard to break away from a pattern that has been drilled into you for years, but the fact that this fellow knew he had a fight ahead of him, and was willing to undertake the battle, was a sign that a new age is dawning. And there are others like him. The uniform had made us all One, and through it and because of it those of us who would never have understood the Negro are being awakened. We are judging him by what he is, not who he is.

In the matter of punishments, I had been told by my school friends that a Negro would find it harder to "beat the rap" than a white person, should he ever appear before the captain for one misdemeanor or an-

other. I had never met with a case where this applied. The code of justice, at least under the commanding officers I served under, dispensed military justice as equally for the Negro as for the white. If there were any arguments as to the validity of a sentence, it was against the code itself, and not the manner in which it was applied. Our captain saw no distinction between offenders. I can safely say that he was blind to race when adjudging the guilt or innocence of one who appeared before him. Now I am out of the service. I am back in the city where I was born and raised, and I see about me huge housing projects being built, and families, primarily Negro, moving into them. And I hear whispers among my neighbors. "The jigs are moving in."

#### TROUBLE BREWING

"Uh, Oh! Trouble brewing. There'll be gang-fights and robberies in a little while." "The place is going to the dogs. Pretty soon there won't be a white face for miles." "We'd better move. Real estate values are going down."

"Did you see all the niggers in the store, yesterday? Why, I'm afraid to go in there anymore. I'd better bring my business elsewhere."

And my school friends? Well, they seem to be changing their tune concerning equality. Some of them, Thank God not too many, are saying:

"I'll be transferring next term. Too many Negroes coming in. Not that I mind them, you understand.

(Continued on page 316)

# ARE THE WALLS OF DISCRIMINATION TUMBLING DOWN?

Yes . . . but the fight is  
not yet won . . . your  
support was never so  
important as **Right Now**

Lip service is not enough. If the crusade of American Negroes for first class citizenship is to succeed (and it is now well on its way), good wishes are not enough, kind words are not enough, a cooperative spirit is not enough. We call on you to support this crucial moment in this great program with financial assistance. You need not be a millionaire to become a life member of NAACP. You need only the will and determination to make the contribution which your own conscience dictates.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

KIVIE KAPLAN

DR. BENJAMIN MAYS

### CO-CHAIRMEN

Kelly Alexander	Dr. Mordecai Johnson
Bishop W. Y. Bell	Robert H. Johnson
Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune	Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin
Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers	Hon. Herbert H. Lehman
Dr. W. Montague Cobb	Dr. James J. McClendon
Earl B. Dickerson	A. Philip Randolph
Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick	Walter Reuther
Morton S. Grossman	Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Dr. Ralph Harlow	Ike Smalls
Carl Johnson	A. Maceo Smith
Dr. Channing H. Tobias	

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS IN NAACP ARE VITALLY NEEDED!

Annual installments of as little as \$50 or more, sent to either your local branch of NAACP or the New York headquarters, can make you a Life Member in this vital crusade.

Send to your local  
Branch or

**N.A.A.C.P.**

20 West 40th Street  
New York 18, N. Y.

I wish to become a Life Member of the NAACP.

- ☐ I enclose check of \$.....  
as first payment toward a life membership.
- ☐ I enclose check of \$500 for full Life Membership.

Name.....

Address.....

City and State.....

# Editorials

## MINORITY HOUSING

**H**OUSING is still one of our major problems. Our economic, political, and social gains are still to be matched by corresponding gains in democratic housing. And although Americans concede that it is a function of government to see that families have shelter, neither government nor public opinion seems willing to break up the "black belts" nor to make available housing accessible to minority groups. In fact, public housing, public works, and urban redevelopment seem to be increasingly employed as devices to separate the races.

New housing developments, whether public or private, are usually built in solidly Negro or solidly white sections and they thus tend to perpetuate the segregated pattern. Where middle-income homes have been built on the edges of cities, they are invariably for white occupancy. Levitt & Sons, Inc., the world's largest builder of private homes, for instance, is the nation's worst offender in the building of "lily-white" towns. No Negro can live in Levittown, Long Island, nor Levittown, Pennsylvania. In Bucks county, Pennsylvania, Levitt & Sons are building a town which will eventually house more than 70,000 people, yet no Negro can buy any of the 16,000 small homes abuilding. This is why the NAACP entered a discrimination suit against Levitt & Sons, in the federal district court in Philadelphia on January 13, 1955, seeking an injunction to restrain Levitt from refusing to sell to Negroes.

**M**ORTGAGE-LENDERS, realtors, and home-builders have also encouraged jim-crow housing. Having been conditioned by stereotyped ideas about Negroes and other minority groups, they may refuse to make mortgage loans on properties in Negro neighborhoods, to sell to Negroes in a white neighborhood, or as in the case of FHA they break up a racially mixed area by superimposing a homogeneous federally aided development.

Unless we break up these practices our legal gains in integration will be nullified. Since it is inevitable that a segregated community develops segregated institutions: schools, parks, churches, etc. If America is to give meaning to our court victories, she must provide all citizens with decent housing without regard to race, creed, or color.

## CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION

**A**CCORDING to the March, 1955, issue of *Nairo Reporter*, thirty-five states are considering legislation which will affect civil rights of their citizens. Arizona, California, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan,

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Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Wisconsin have introduced fair employment practices bills. Colorado and Indiana have introduced bills to strengthen their FEP laws. Washington has introduced a bill to abolish the State Board Against Discrimination in Employment and to transfer its powers and duties to the Director of Labor and Industry.

Arizona is also considering a measure to prohibit discrimination in public places and California has a bill prohibiting discrimination in the issuance of automobile licenses. Illinois has a bill which would prohibit religious and racial discrimination; Maryland has a bill to give all persons equal rights in places of public accommodation. Colorado has a bill to repeal the state's anti-miscegenation law.

That more and more states are assuming their responsibilities in the area of civil rights is further proof of Negro progress toward first-class citizenship.

### BANDUNG CONFERENCE

THE Asian-African conference which opened at Bandung, Indonesia, on April 18 is a notice to the West that Asia and Africa have shed their leading strings. No longer will it be possible for Europe to decide Africa and Asia's fate around western council tables without the presence of a single African or Asian. The U. S. State Department tried to get its allies to boycott Bandung, but eventually changed its mind.

The West, of course, fears Bandung because the conference is frankly anti-colonial and anti-imperialistic and possibly, to a certain degree, anti-white. Experts on the East and Africa have therefore spent most of their time, not in explaining what these twenty-nine African and Asian nations have in common, but what divides them. They contrast the astute Chou En-lai of China with the complex, English-educated Jawaharlal Nehru of India and then wonder how Communist China expects to work in harness with parliamentary-governed India; or they contrast the congenial Mohammed Ali of Pakistan with his western leanings with the doctrinaire Pham Van Dong of North Vietnam. They harp on the political complexion of the participants, that they include a Communist-patterned state like China, an English-patterned democracy like India, as well as a constitutional monarchy like Cambodia. When political differences run out they dig up religious ones.

Yet the West cannot laugh off the fact that all these peoples, despite their diversity, have common memories of western colonialism and the scars of white man's arrogance and humiliation. Regardless of what comes out of Bandung in formal resolutions and policies, it marks a historic step in the emancipation of Africa and Asia from white tutelage and exploitation.

# Investors in Freedom

## CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BRANCHES TOWARDS "FIGHTING FUND FOR FREEDOM" FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1955

*(Included also are December contributions not reported in previous issue of The Crisis)*

ALABAMA		MARYLAND	
Selma .....	\$ 25.00	Balnew-Sparrows Point ....	8.00
Tuskegee .....	62.50		
CALIFORNIA		MICHIGAN	
Salinas .....	80.05	Jackson .....	25.00
		Niles .....	50.00
CONNECTICUT		NEW YORK	
New Britain .....	150.00	Mt. Vernon .....	123.19
Norwalk .....	40.00	Nyack .....	50.00
		Peekskill .....	1,000.00
DELAWARE		Poughkeepsie .....	50.00
Wilmington .....	500.00		
FLORIDA		NORTH CAROLINA	
Miami .....	776.00	Richmond County (Ham- let) .....	50.00
GEORGIA		OHIO	
Crisp County (Cordele) ....	5.00	Akron .....	250.00
		Columbus .....	248.19
INDIANA		Hillsboro .....	75.01
Fort Wayne .....	116.50		
Hammond .....	58.00	SOUTH CAROLINA	
IOWA		Estill .....	10.00
Clinton .....	13.00	Florence .....	138.91
		Harleyville .....	5.00





# Along the N. A. A. C. P. Battlefront

## CONTRIBUTIONS

*Contributions to Freedom Fund:* A donation of \$625 from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.—representing the first quarterly payment on a pledge of \$2,500 to the NAACP—is among contributions totalling more than five thousand dollars received by the Association in March. A finance report made public at NAACP headquarters on April 14 revealed that the exact amount was \$5,229.79.

The contributions came from a variety of organizations, including 35 NAACP branches and youth councils, and from persons who contributed on an individual basis. In the latter category was Duke Ellington, composer and bandleader, who donated \$259.

The largest single amount shown in the report, \$776, came from the Miami, Fla., branch.

Organizations that contributed were Graphic Offset Company, New York, \$100; the Philadelphia Cotillion Society, \$89.50; the Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs, New York, \$50; and Actor's Equity Association, New York, \$50.

Individual donations included Wilbur Halyard, Milwaukee, Wis.; Elizabeth Matthews, Cincinnati, Ohio; Reginald Galvani, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Mrs. Eleanor Alexander, New York, and Mr. and Mrs. Irvin C. Poley, Philadelphia, \$100 each; Earl C. Gassenheimer, New York, \$75; and Mrs. D. N. Heineman, Greenwich, Conn.; Carolina B. Chapin, Englewood, N. J.; and Mrs. L. C. Anspacher, New York, \$50 each.

A number of other donations of \$25 and under totalled \$162.

Branch contributions in addition to that of Miami, Fla., included Wilmington, Del., \$500; Akron, Ohio, \$250; Columbus, Ohio, \$248.19; Florence, S. C. \$138.91; Mt. Vernon, N. Y., \$123.19; Ft. Wayne, Ind., \$116.50; McDowell County, W. Va., and Ft. Worth, Tex., \$100 each; Milwaukee, Wis., \$98; Shreveport, La., \$75; Tuskegee, Ala., \$62.50; Hammond, Ind., \$58; and Niles, Mich., the Easton, Pa., youth council, Nyack, N. Y., and Richmond, N. C., \$50 each.

Seventeen other branches sent amounts of less than \$50 each.



**SYLVIA DAVIS**, one of the best workers in the Columbus, Ohio, branch receives 50 sheets of NAACP Christmas seals from **Mrs. Doris Walker** (right), branch seal committee secretary. **BOTTOM**: Phyllis Wheatley Club of Berkeley, Calif., makes initial payment on NAACP life membership through president **Mrs. Faricita Hall** (left) and **Mrs. Alice Ford** to NAACP field secretary **Tarea Hall Pittman** (right).

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## LIFE MEMBERS

*New Life Members:* Forty-five persons and organizations enlisted as NAACP life members in March. Of these, nine became paid-in-full life members while an additional thirty-six became life membership subscribers.

Among the new life members is Congressman Robert W. Keene, Republican of New Jersey. Others who made the full payment are Dr. Carl Murphy, Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. Dorothy M. L. Murray, Palo Alto, Calif.; Louis Laven, Long Meadon, Mass.; Dr. P. T. Robinson, Richmond, Calif.; and Louis Stahl, Peabody, Mass.; and Athur Osman, David Livingston, and Cleveland Robinson, all of New York.

The life membership subscribers include three organizations. These are the Brooklyn, N. Y., Catholic Interracial Council, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Central Conference of Salisbury, N. C., and the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society of Washington, D. C.

Persons who became life membership subscribers are Charles McLean, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Dr. J. M. Maxwell, Milwaukee, Wis.; Simon Edison, St. Louis, Mo.; Willy Nordwind, Lynn, Mass.; Dr. L. H. Foster, Tuskegee, Ala.; Willie Adams, Baltimore, Md.; Samuel Black and Edward Cuzon of Springfield, Mass.; John Evans, East Elmhurst, N. Y.; Sidney Lipman, Lynn, Mass.; E. Rosenkrantz, Oakland, Calif.; the Hon. Bruce Crance, Delton, Mass.;

J. Harold Finen, Cincinnati, Ohio; Harold L. Kravit, Brookline, Mass.; Robert P. Daniel, Petersburg, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Cozart, Concord, N. C.; Samuel Troy, Richmond, Va.; Judge Saul Berman, Hartford, Conn.; Julian D. Steele, West Newbury, Mass.; Richard S. Tarlow, Brockton, Mass.; Charles A. Hubbard, New Haven, Conn.;

Dr. Huerta C. Neals, Jersey City, N. J.; Dr. S. F. Coppage, Norfolk, Va.; Herbert C. Lee and Norman Rabb of Boston, Mass.; Ralph Lockwood, Bridgeport, Conn.; and William A. Brown, Dr. C. O. Simpkins, Edd Mc-Lemore, Dr. Mye Maddox, the Rev. A. R. Wright, Ellis A. Bryant, and William Melton, all of Shreveport, La.

## BANK FUNDS

*Tri-State Bank Deposits:* Special deposits in the Tri-State Bank of Memphis, Tenn., to provide business credit for victims of the Mississippi "economic squeeze" had neared the quarter-million-dollar mark during the early part of April. Organizations are continuing to rally to the NAACP call for assistance in fighting the attempt of the White Citizens' Councils to suppress militant civil rights demands.

The most recent deposits were made by New York organizations and amounted to \$10,000 each from the Carver Federal Savings and Loan Association and Local 22, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, AFL; plus \$2,500 each from the Laundry Workers Joint Board and the Cleaners and Dyers Joint Board, both of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, CIO.

These deposits of \$25,000 brought the total to \$246,619.



REV. KENNETH A. BOWEN, *president of the Buffalo, N. Y., branch receives an NAACP life membership from Mrs. Martha Millar, president of the Women's Auxilliary, during the branch's Emancipation Day celebration. BOTTOM: Legal committee of the newly organized Michigan state conference of the NAACP.*



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The NAACP itself made the initial deposit of \$20,000. Other earlier depositors include Metropolitan Detroit Mutual Assurance Co.; AME Pension Fund; North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co.; Mechanics and Farmers Bank of Durham, N. C.; Broadway Federal Savings and Loan Bank of Los Angeles; Prince Hall Masons of Oklahoma, Mississippi and Pennsylvania; Great Lakes Mutual Life Insurance Co.; Colored Methodist Episcopal Church; Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Co.; Edward Kivie Kaplan; United Automobile Workers, CIO; Pilgrim Life Insurance Co., Augusta, Ga.; Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, AFL; Good Citizens Life Insurance Co., of New Orleans; and Peoples Life Insurance Co., \$10,000 each; Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York City, \$8,119; Omega Psi Phi, Alpha Phi Alpha; Scottish Rite Masons; Amalgamated Clothing Workers, CIO; American Veterans Committee; and Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co., Richmond, \$5,000 each.

Also, \$1,000 each by Mrs. Ernest A. Alexander and Mrs. J. E. Spingarn and \$500 by Morris S. Novik, all of New York.

## POLITICS

*Recommend Election President By Popular Vote:* Association spokesmen on April 1 urged support of an amendment to provide direct election of the President and Vice-President of the United States in testimony before a Senate judiciary subcommittee considering proposals to abolish the electoral college and to split each state's total electoral vote in proportion to the number of popular votes cast for the respective candidates.

Under present rules, the party receiving the majority of popular votes in a state also receives the total electoral vote for that state.

Testifying for the NAACP were Dr. John A. Davis, professor of political science at the College of the City of New York; Clarence Mitchell and J. Francis Pohlhaus, director and counsel respectively, of the Association's Washington bureau.

Mr. Mitchell told the committee members that the late Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio "pointed out that the proposed change to split the electoral vote of each state would give undue advantage to the one-party states, particularly those in the South. By using statistics of past elections, Senator Taft showed how the State of Ohio would get a weight of one electoral vote under the proportional system, while Mississippi would get seven and Georgia six."

Mr. Mitchell said that the resolution had been publicly described by some of its supporters as a means of curbing the influence of "Jewish, Negro, Irish, Italian and Polish" voters in New York City and other large northern cities. Its sponsors, he charged, are seeking to wreck liberal programs in both the Republican and Democratic parties, and, thereby, restore southern domination of national politics.

Dr. Davis pointed out that the Daniel-Humphrey-Kefauver resolutions (S.J. Res. 30 and 31), to split each state's electoral votes, are packaged

arrangements. Many different people adhere to them for different reasons, he said. Southern Democrats see in the resolutions the opportunity to establish their dominance in the Democratic party while liberals see the chance to form a third party.

Some idea of the confusion over the issue, he continued, can be discerned from the fact that Senator Daniel and former Congressman Gossett, both from Texas, are supporting a proposed amendment which would destroy the newly developed political power in the State of Texas in the election of the President. Texas is now a pivotal state in the election of the President—a state with a large number of electoral votes which may go either Republican or Democratic.

Regardless of the reasons for supporting the resolutions, Dr. Davis said, the resolutions would lessen the power of northern states where colored citizens may vote freely and increase the power of the states which prevent colored persons from voting solely because of race. He added that the resolutions would create a multi-party system in the United States and destroy the President's effectiveness in foreign affairs.

The NAACP spokesmen suggested that S.J. Res. 10, sponsored by Senator Langer (R., N.Dak.) should be approved by Congress because it provides for a direct election of the President and Vice-President by popular vote.

## EDUCATION

*Texas Jim Crow Challenged:* Race segregation throughout the University of Texas system has been challenged in a suit filed in the U. S. district court in El Paso by NAACP attorneys.

The specific question raised is whether Texas Western College, a part of the University of Texas, has the right to bar a would-be student because she is a Negro.

Named as defendants in the suit are the board of regents of the University of Texas and the administrative officers of Texas Western College.

The legal action charges that the policy of the defendants has deprived the plaintiff, Thelma White, of her rights as a citizen under the U.S. Constitution.

Miss White, a resident of El Paso, sought to enroll in Texas Western College last September. Admission was denied her. The petition states that Miss White was denied admission "because of her race and color, contrary to and in violation of the Constitution and laws of the U.S." She now is a freshman student at New Mexico A and M College.

The NAACP suit asks that Texas laws requiring segregation in higher education be held unconstitutional and void. The action also seeks an injunction to restrain the defendants from enforcing segregation.

NAACP attorneys who brought the suit are Thurgood Marshall and Robert L. Carter of New York, and U. Simpson Tate of Dallas.

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# What the Branches Are Doing

**Alabama:** The voter franchise committee of the TUSKEGEE branch made a study of the voter registration of Negroes in Macon county covering a four-year period. The Macon county board of registrars took 1,024 applications and issued 270 certificates of registration from 1951 through 1954; that is, it issued 1 certificate for each 3.76 applications made.

**California:** The LOS ANGELES branch took out a 9-inch on 3-column advertisement in a local paper to publicize the branch and solicit members. The "ad" featured Andy Razaf's poem, "A Good Investment."

Among recent activities reported by the WEST COAST REGIONAL OFFICE are the following:

—The U. S. district court heard arguments in March on the motion to dismiss the El Centro school segregation complaint.

—An anti-bias bill has been introduced into the Nevada assembly by assemblyman Don Crawford. It provides for fines of not more than \$100 and imprisonment of not more than 100 days for any person causing or inciting discrimination in places of public accommodation in Nevada.

—Because she considers an "interracial" party "an unlawful assembly," Santa Barbara policewoman Edith Gallup was re-assigned by the chief of police to a complaint desk where she will not come in contact with the public.

Policewoman Gallup had arrested a Negro youth, Charles Evans, for

attending an "interracial" party of teenagers in the home of Mrs. Roosevelt Hoover, a prominent local resident.

—National and local civil rights news headlines are being presented each weekday morning at 6:55 A.M. over KSAN-Radio, San Francisco. The program, known as "Special Reporter," has NAACP field secretary Lester P. Bailey.

**Illinois:** The campaign of the CHICAGO branch to secure enactment by the 69th Illinois General Assembly of the NAACP six-point legislative program to combat segregation and discrimination in Illinois is now moving into high gear.

The 15th annual benefit tea of the Women's Auxiliary of the Chicago branch was held on March 20 at the Parkway Ballroom, 4459 South Parkway.

The branch put itself on record as being opposed to the Broyles anti-communist bills because they duplicate present laws and because of the anti-Negro attitudes of many of the sponsors of these bills.

Delegates from branches, youth councils, college chapters, and state conferences of the NAACP in seven middle-western states convened March 25-27 at Milwaukee for a three-day workshop and training conference. There were workshops on legislation, education, civil rights, housing, membership, and fund raising.

**Iowa:** The BURLINGTON branch was one of eleven sponsors of the an-





**DR. HUERTA C. NEALS**, a life member of the Jersey City, N. J., branch of the NAACP.

nual brotherhood vespers held in the senior high school auditorium in Burlington. Principal speaker was Dr. Archibald Carey, member of the U. S. delegation to UN. Mr. Carey spoke on the business of brotherhood.

**Kentucky:** Sixteenth annual banquet of the PADUCAH branch was held on February 25 at the Washington street Baptist church, with regional secretary Donald Jones as the principal speaker.

**Maryland:** The MARYLAND STATE CONFERENCE OF BRANCHES recently appointed George Browne as field secretary. Mr. Browne, a former teacher, has been active in NAACP work for many years.

Both the BALTIMORE branch, and more than ten county branches, were represented at Annapolis, Maryland, on March 9 to urge passage of the civil rights bill up for vote in the joint

judiciary proceedings committees of the Maryland legislature.

The branch has also launced its spring renewal campaign through the economics department of Morgan State College. Led by Dr. W. O. Bryson, Jr., the goal is 10,000 members. The state conference has completed plans for its 15th annual conference in Baltimore on May 14.

**Michigan:** Mayor Albert E. Cobbs, at the suggestion of the DETROIT branch, has issued a proclamation designating April 11-15, 1955, as Fight For Freedom Week.

**Minnesota:** Judge Betty W. Washburn of the local municipal court was guest speaker at the February 20 meeting of the MINNEAPOLIS branch. She spoke on municipal court procedure.

The movie, "Our Human Resources," was shown at the March 20 branch meeting held at the Phillis Wheatley House.

**New Jersey:** Verner Henry of the Newark board of education was guest speaker at a special supper meeting of the executive board of the NEWARK branch on March 6. Mr. Henry's talk outlined the problems confronting the board of education.

The March 27 meeting of the EAST ORANGE branch was very successful in planning campaign procedures.

**New York:** In 1954 the labor and industry committee of the NEW YORK CITY branch in cooperation with the Coordinating Council for Negro Performers campaigned for employment of Negro and non-white actors and technicians in TV and radio industries in New York City, but made no apparent progress. When on February 26, these committees asked New Yorkers to cooperate in a blackout of their TV and radio sets as a protest against jim

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GERTRUDE GORMAN, assistant field secretary, inducts New York City branch officers for 1955. From left, Winifred Norman, secretary; Russell P. Crawford, president; Hortense Bowery, assistant secretary; Odel Clark, vice-president; and Mrs. Aloncita Flood treasurer.

crow in TV-radio, many complied. As a result, the first round in the battle for a fair percentage of non-white employment in these concerns has been won.

The BROOKLYN branch held its regular membership meeting on March 31.

**North Carolina:** The MASONS of North Carolina have contributed \$500 to the NAACP legal department to help finance the job of eliminating second class citizenship from America.

**Ohio:** Attorney George H. Bingham has been named president of the MANSFIELD branch, which received its charter in a special ceremony in April. Attorney Bingham accepted the charter for the local branch, which has some 300 members, from Attorney Franklin, vice-president of the Ohio NAACP.

Statewide victory in its drive against racial labels on students' report records has been reported by the CLEVELAND



*Littlejohn*

**A WORKERS FELLOWSHIP** dinner of the Fort Worth, Texas, branch was held on January 28, 1955, to emphasize the branch membership drive. R. J. Diamond was general director, assisted by Rev. H. T. Wise and Emmett Session.

branch. Dr. James Levy, branch president, said the state education department, in answer to the branch's protest, will no longer require a count on Negro, white, red, and yellow pupils on enrollment figures submitted annually by local school district to state school headquarters.

Dr. Levy quoted Robert Rohe, state school finance director, as saying that the racial designations will be omitted from the 1954-55 report forms. City

school superintendent Mark Schinnerer had previously told the branch that race references would be dropped from the system's records, except where the state demanded them.

**Pennsylvania:** Mrs. Katie Greene and Mrs. Illma Upshur, noted civic and social workers, have been named co-chairwomen of the PHILADELPHIA branch membership drive, launched officially on April 17 for a goal of 10,000 members.

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THESE three physician's wives plan local fund-raising drives for the NAACP's fight for freedom campaign with Mrs. Ruth Ellington James of New York City (third from left), a member of the NAACP's national office staff. From left, Mrs. Bertha Hill, East Orange, N. J., chairman Fight for Freedom Project of Women's Auxiliary of the National Medical Association; Mrs. Alice Hayes, Niagara Falls, N. Y., chairman coordinating committee of NMA Woman's Auxiliary; Mrs. Ruth James; and Mrs. Minna Bryant, New York, president, Women's Auxiliary of Manhattan Central Medical Association.

Dr. Margaret Just Butcher, member of the Washington, D. C., board of education and champion of public school integration, was March 28 guest speaker at a luncheon meeting of the Philadelphia branch.

Delaware River Bridge officials have intimated to a visiting branch delegation that they will consider the hiring of Negroes. Of the 260 employees in the personnel force of the bridge

which connects Philadelphia and Camden, not a one is Negro.

"The most vital phase of the anti-segregation fight from here on is the problem of jim-crow housing restrictions," said Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, addressing the CHESTER branch on March 4. Mr. Marshall was principal speaker at the annual banquet of Eastern Light Lodge No. 46, F&AM, held at the Chester Masonic



OFFICERS of the Jersey City, N. J., branch at installation services held in the Metropolitan AME Zion church on January 17, 1955.

Temple. About 700 people attended the banquet.

George T. Raymond, branch president, was presented with a special award for his outstanding work in human relations with youth.

The executive committee of the PENNSYLVANIA STATE CONFERENCE is fighting hard for enactment of a state FEPC law. Meeting in Easton, the board directed that letters be sent state senators urging them to approve Senate Bill #74, which would prohibit job discrimination based on

race, religion or other factors not concerned with a person's qualifications for the job.

**Tennessee:** The CHATTANOOGA branch observed Emancipation Day on January 1, 1955, with exercises at the Thompkin Chapel AMEZ church. Dr. Franklin Jackson of Washington, D. C., was the principal speaker.

**Texas:** The annual membership drive of the TEXAS CONFERENCE began on April 1 and will extend through the month of May.



*Cubia Dee's*

**ESMERALDA R. HAWKINS, president of the Tri-City, N. C., branch receives a life membership plaque from Charles McLean (left) while branch secretary Mrs. Jennie Taylor looks on. BOTTOM: Rev. Samuel Spear (left) of the Ebenezer Baptist church in Philadelphia, Pa., donates \$25 to the Philadelphia branch. Branch president Harry Greene receives the check.**

# College and School News

This arresting paragraph comes from the "Report of the President, The City College, New York, Biennium 1952-54":

"The intellectual calibre and academic ability of the entering student continues to be consistently high. The best talent from the City's high schools competes for entrance. The student who is dismissed because he is not college material is an extremely rare person at CCNY."

The music department of ALABAMA STATE COLLEGE has published the winter, 1955 issue of *Tones and Overtones*, a musical quarterly.

Fifteenth annual meeting of the College Language Association was held at HAMPTON INSTITUTE April 22-23, with some of the nation's foremost scholars in language and literature taking part in the two-day meeting.

Ten students, nine of them North Carolinians, completed the course leading to the bachelor's degree in elementary education at the conclusion of the winter quarter at FAYETTEVILLE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE.

Among recent attractions at FSTC were the appearance of Vincette Carroll, noted dramatist, in a one-woman show on March 25, and the concert of Hazel Scott, pianist, on March 18.

The February-March, 1955, issue of the *Virginia Education Bulletin* offers a tribute to the local leaders of the Virginia Teachers Association, Inc.

The January, 1955, issue of the NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE AT DURHAM's *News Letter* digests the speech of A. M. Rivera, Jr., and the discussions, made after Mr. Rivera's tour of 12 southern states and interviews with southerners on the school desegregation issue.

CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE president, Dr. Charles H. Wesley, told an all-college convocation on March 15 that "There must be education to dispel ignorance about our heritage, our civil rights, our human rights." Dr. Wesley was addressing a convocation observing the 164th anniversary year of the American Bill of Rights.

Job specialists from seven mid-west cities representing twelve major fields and some of their allied areas took over Central State classes in mid-March to advise students on career choices, job requirements, and employment opportunities. Campbell Murphy of the Dayton, Ohio, Community Welfare was the keynote speaker.

President Harold D. West's semi-annual report to the MEHARRY

MEDICAL COLLEGE board of trustees stresses the need for added income and construction.

Paul Sacher, internationally known Swiss conductor and choral director, conducted the spring concert, April 3, at Carnegie Hall of the Collegiate Chorale. The Collegiate Chorale, founded in 1941 by Robert Shaw, is a non-professional, interracial, non-sectarian chorus, composed of men and women of all ages and occupations, who sing for the love of singing.

Prospects are good for orderly desegregation in southern and border-state public schools, because most of the white population has now determined to eliminate the Negro problem as the predominant factor in their life and thought.

The majority of white southerners "no longer consider it a horrible and dangerous thing to have selected social contacts with Negroes on an equal status level," even though opposition by a large white minority prevents them from openly expressing such ideas, it was stated on March 1 by Arnold M. Rose, Ph.D., professor of sociology at the University of Minnesota, at the 32nd annual conference of the AMERICAN ORTHOPSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION held at the Sherman Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

Eighty-eight students made the dean's list last semester at JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY, according to an announcement made by registrar J. Arthur Twitty. Among

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this number, five made straight "A" averages: Bruce Chandler, Jacquelyn Medford, Rudolph Worsley, Gladys Knox, all seniors, and Pecola Abraham, a junior.

DILLARD UNIVERSITY cited the achievements of the late Matthew A. Henson in a memorial service on March 15. Henson was the co-discoverer of the North Pole and has been honored at Dillard by the naming of the gymnasium-auditorium for him.

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE held its tenth annual Institute on Successful Marriage and Family Living March 9-11. Theme of this year's institute, sponsored jointly by the sociology department of the college and the Planned Parenthood Federation, was "Maturity: a Basis for Family Life."

A recent UNESCO survey, "Opportunities for Girls in Secondary Education," finds that boys are still favored over girls in high school education.

Although nearly all countries have legislation providing the same opportunities for boys and girls, in practice the facilities available in many countries are still far from equal. This is generally true of Africa, Asia, and some countries in Latin America, UNESCO reports.

Dr. John Hope Franklin, professor of history at Howard, was the founders' day speaker at SPELMAN



COLLEGE on April 10. The celebration, which honored the founders, Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles, began on April 8 with the annual concert of the Spelman College Glee Club under the direction of William Laurence James

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY was host March 29-April 2 to the National Association of Drama and Speech Arts, and on April 13-14 to the Institute on Local Supervisors.

John Wilson, Roxbury, Massachusetts, a Guggenheim fellow studying in Mexico, was adjudged winner of the top cash award of \$300 at the annual Atlanta University Exhibition for this year's best paintings, sculpture, and prints by Negro artists. Mr. Wilson's oil painting, "Negro Woman," is a forceful portrayal of a woman in middle life, painted in strong and convincing colors. This is the artist's tenth award during the last twelve years for prize-winning entries in oils, water colors, and graphic arts.

Four top officials of RCA-Victor came to AU recently to present a high fidelity record player and a collection of records to the university for use in its music room.

Two Atlanta alumnae recently received high-place appointments. Mrs. Eunice Hill, '42, was elected president of the Staff Association of the San Francisco Public Library System. Erma D. McLemore, '51, sailed on March 2 for France to serve under the direction of the United States Army in libraries in France and Germany.

Dean Whitney N. Young of the

## CHEYNEY

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university school of social work read a paper at the 32nd annual meeting, held in Chicago, Illinois, March 1, of the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

The 1955 nation-wide campaign of the UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND for \$1,750,000 opened officially in New York City on March 21 following a week-end convocation in New York of the 31 presidents of the Fund's member colleges.

The highlight of the convocation week-end, which began on March 18, was the meeting at the Metropolitan Opera House where Secretary of State John Foster Dulles shared the rostrum with Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse and vice-president of the UNC. Mr. Dulles spoke on "the blessings of liberty."

Two thousand two hundred and forty students are enrolled for the second semester at FLORIDA A AND M UNIVERSITY, according to figures released by the registrar, Edwin M. Thorpe. This figure is a record for second semester attendance and tops last year's enrollment of 2,038 by 202.

Five persons with straight "A" averages were among the 81 university students who made the fall semester honor roll.

The Florida Cabinet has awarded a \$363,000 contract for construction of a new demonstration school at the university and released \$1,197,000 for construction of an agriculture-home-economics and student union building.

The university college of law has been approved for accreditation by the Council of Legal Education and

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Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association.

President James P. Brawley of CLARK COLLEGE sponsored, as chairman of the Committee from the Council of Presidents in the University Center, the second university center joint religious emphasis week February 28-March 4.

Three college students at LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Mo.) earned straight "A" grade point rating during the fall term. Ninety-three students made the honor roll.

A district meeting of the Atlanta Council on Human Relations, sponsored by the Ford Foundation, was held on the TALLADEGA COLLEGE campus on February 22.

Talladega students, sponsored in part by the Off-Campus Contacts program, spent March 3-13 visiting in New York, Washington, and Chicago as well as Alabama centers.

Dr. Richard V. Moore, president of Bethune-Cookman, delivered the founder's day address at ALBANY STATE COLLEGE on April 3. Albany State was founded in 1903 by Dr. J. W. Holley, now president emeritus.

The college was host to the Rural

Ministers Institute March 7-11. The institute was sponsored jointly by the college and the National Council of Churches of Christ.

Two buildings, one for use in the teaching of health and physical education and the other for use in the teaching of science, were dedicated at the college on March 4.

President Benjamin E. Mays of Morehouse was principal speaker on February 20 at the fourth annual observance of SHAW UNIVERSITY day held at the First Baptist church in Raleigh.

Dr. A. O. Steele, professor of religious education at Johnson C. Smith, delivered the daily message during religious emphasis week, which was concluded March 11.

Marking a rare occurrence in college theatre, a Negro undergraduate at AMHERST COLLEGE (Massachusetts) portrayed the title role of Othello in the Amherst Masquers production which opened on February 24. Norman C. Amaker, a junior from Garden City Park, L. I., headed the cast of the fifth Shakespearean work staged by the Amherst dramatic department in as many years.

VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE was host in February to third annual music clinic. Over 250 high school students were in attendance to participate in the clinic.






Layne's

**AVC AIDS MISSISSIPPI VICTIMS**—Roy Wilkins (center), NAACP executive secretary, receives \$5,000 check of the American Veterans Committee from Louis S. Warshaw of the AVC National Administrative Committee as Samuel Tappis, AVC administrative director, looks on. The check is for deposit in the Tri-State Bank of Memphis, Tennessee, to enlarge the bank's capacity to make business loans to Negroes caught in the Mississippi economic squeeze through denial of credit. Tri-State Bank deposits for this purpose now amount to more than \$250,000.



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**MELVIN TAPLEY** (right), president of the Peekshill, N. Y., branch, presents a check for \$1,000 to NAACP board chairman **Dr. Channing H. Tobias** for the Fight for Freedom Fund. The Peekshill branch has exceeded its FFF quota by more than 200 percent.



## Book Review

### SABLE CHARLATAN

**Black Moses: The Story of Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association.** By Edmund David Cronon. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1955. XVII+287pp. Illustrated. \$5.00.

Professor Cronon has written a very readable, factual and well-documented biography of Marcus Garvey, that inspired, flamboyant, egotistical, autocratic and impractical Jamaican who strutted the racial stage for a decade during and after World War I and then disappeared into obscurity.

With grandiose dreams and schemes but pathetically little practical knowledge of the world in which he lived or the forces with which he dealt, Garvey's little moment of prominence was a tragi-comedy of errors as embarrassing to contemporary Negroes as it was to himself.

His Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League, his Black Star Line, his Black Cross Navigation and Trading Company which succeeded it, his Negro Factories Corporation, his African emigration project and other fantastic enterprises were ludicrous flops, clownish charlatanism that repelled all but the lunatic fringe, ignoramuses and ghetto chiselers who flocked about him. However, this element was numerous, so for a time the money rolled in; but

those who have a keen recollection of the times must disagree with the author as to the influence of the self-styled Provisional President of Africa.

Aside from a segment of the rootless recent migrants vegetating in the black slums of a half dozen large cities, he did not touch the bulk of American Negroes at all. The core of his movement consisted of the West Indian element along the Atlantic seaboard, themselves but recent arrivals. Even in the heyday of the Garvey hysteria, the UNIA membership did not approach that of the NAACP, nor was it as widespread or influential. Card-carrying UNIA members never exceed 30,000, with perhaps a half-million fellow travelers, sympathizers and stock purchasers. His bombastic amphigories, his remarkable gift of Billingsgate, his reckless promises and his colorful clownings brought perhaps a million dollars into his coffers. Most of it disappeared into the pockets of rascally subordinates and scheming white operators. Garvey himself died poor. Today he is only honored in his native Jamaica.

Garvey was a typical Jamaican black with the indelible impress of that three-color society upon him. Entirely alien to America, his bid for a black following and his denunciation of light-skinned colored folk introduced an irritating, un-American note. His understandably insular emphasis on the sea

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and shipping had little appeal to provincial Negroes with a continent behind them and no cultural or sentimental interests abroad, in Africa or elsewhere. In a society where economic success is worshipped, his chain of ignominious business catastrophes repelled the intelligent Negro minority. His final desperate alliance with kleagles and wizards of the Ku Klux Klan completely finished whatever influence he had with the mass of blacks. His imprisonment for using the mails to defraud his dupes and his final deportation, which cut him off from the American fleshpots, ended his livelihood.

A black sorcerer's apprentice dabbling with forces unknown, he was a pathetically ludicrous figure. His megalomania inhibited him from soliciting or accepting wise counsel or capable assistants. Blissfully ignorant of business and finance, his schemes were doomed in advance to failure. Possessed of great ability for mob leadership, he had nowhere to lead his followers but astray. To the credit of current Negro leaders, they attacked this Garvey nonsense from the beginning. One feels that the author is sound when he concludes: "In assessing Marcus Garvey's work as a Negro leader, one is hard put to discover any tangible gain resulting from the impressive movement he created."

GEORGE S. SCHUYLER.

#### NEGRO CARETAKERS

*The Barber of Natchez.* By Edwin Adams Davis and William Ransom Hogan. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1954. 272pp. \$4.00.

*Bishop Healy: Beloved Outcaste.* By Albert S. Foley, S.J. New York: Farrar, Straus and Young, 1954. viii+243pp. \$3.50.

*The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass: Reconstruction and After. Volume IV.* By Philip S. Foner. New York: International Publishers, 1955. 574pp. \$4.50.

These are the biographies of three Negro caretakers: a barber who cared for the head, a bishop who cared for the soul, and an Abolitionist who cared for the future of a great dark mass of humanity. All three in small or large manner made an imprint on the time and place in which they lived, have in common slave origin of Negro-white ancestry, but differ in the course of their lives as they unfolded during the nineteenth century. William Johnson, *The Barber of Natchez*, recorded in his diary the activities of the times as well as some of his opinions and beliefs. Here is a competent picturization of a literate free Negro of the antebellum South who attained his freedom as a child and through thrift, hard work, personal character, and self-education created a reputation for dependability and shrewdness in business. This narration reveals much about the white people of Natchez, something of the class consciousness of the free Negro, but little about the Negro slave since, although Johnson owned them, he looked down upon those in the group from which he escaped with the same contempt as did southern whites. This portrait of William Johnson paints him as a proud, conservative Negro who used his intelligence to take advantage of every opportunity for economic advancement, interspersing his upward progress with snapshots of humor and history in shades of black and white.

Like Johnson, who was ambitious, the story of *Bishop Healy: Beloved Outcaste* reveals the development of an ambitious Negro to attain high office within the Catholic Church. As told here the story is a warm and human one of trials and tribulations—religious, racial, and otherwise—and of



how James A. Healy bore up under them eventually to earn the respect of his fellow Catholics from the Pope down. It tells of his origin from a Negro mother and an Irish father in Georgia and how the latter, loving his children, worked hard and accumulated wealth that was to enable James and his siblings to rise from their legally lowly status. It traces the father taking Healy and his brothers and sisters North to be educated, and of the steady climb of James up the heights of Catholicism from the time he enrolled in the initial class of Holy Cross College in Massachusetts through events of his life as Bishop of Maine. Running through this chain of events are incidents and details that lend personal color to New England regional history—the vicious anti-Catholic feeling in Massachusetts and Maine during the latter half of the last century, Healy's fight for the poor Irish immigrants of these two states, details of American Catholic history, and how this man earned the help, respect, adoration, and friendship of Catholics of both high and low estate, through his sheer brilliance, compassionate understanding, and refusal to let nasty racial slurs get under his skin. It is a welcome volume in that it brings to light little known information about a Negro of real stature who advanced to a high position in the Catholic hierarchy during the nineteenth century when even in these supposedly more liberal days of the present finds no American Negro holding a comparable office.

Where the reputation of Johnson was local and that of Bishop Healy regional, the fame of Frederick Douglass was international in scope and this final volume of the series on *The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass* sets forth in detail the activities of the last thirty years of his life which solidified his position as a great American. Here is Douglass the politician at his best and worst, the office holder and

diplomat, the leader and lover. His human side is set forth in its weakness—his silence at a crucial moment when words from him might have changed for the better the course of the Negro in the United States; his strength when in the afterglow of his declining years he still thundered forth in behalf of the black man and democratic principles. This is Douglass, called by some "one of the greatest champions of liberty, justice and equality" and by others "a lecherous old African Solomon," put in proper perspective.

These are three well written volumes. Davis and Hogan have portrayed William Johnson in as honest a light as possible in recasting a life story from the personal notes of a diary. Father Foley, although his book is most inappropriately subtitled, while outlining the steps to greatness, has balanced the picture of Healy by indicating those little touches of darkness and desire deep within us all that make for the imperfection of mankind. And Philip S. Foner has crowned his four-volume study of Douglass with a sharp eye that sees his shortcomings measured against his long points. In all three are found glory and gloom, the honor of achievement in moments of success and the weakness of selfishness in times of personal desire. Here is found the kind of personal history so necessary to fill in the vague spots that those in the past who have written textbooks and tomes seemed constrained to overlook in depicting the American story. As biography or history those are three very worthwhile books.

HUGH H. SMYTHE

**America's Music: From the Pilgrims to the Present.** By Gilbert Chase. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1955. \$8.50.

*America's music* is a thorough and enthralling book giving a comprehensive picture of the diverse elements that



went into American music, from New England Hymnody to African rhythm.

Both black and white borrowed music from every contact, then transformed it. The New England Puritans borrowed all the English music they had heard, embellished it, made up new words, added new harmonies. Religious dissenters in the South borrowed the recreated New England hymns, as well as German beerhall and church tunes, and reshaped them. The slave borrowed tunes from all the religious groups, added his own words, new rhythms and new patterns of singing. Blackface minstrels borrowed the recreated slave songs. Tin Pan Alley borrowed from all the other borrowers.

This great ferment provided the birththroes of Art. As Malraux says, "Art only evolves from other Art." Much of the borrowing was accidental and unconscious. Written music was hard to come by; it had to be remembered, and an active memory took liberties with it. New soil, new experiences, new hopes stimulated the imagination to embellish, rearrange, expand, embroider, transmute.

The most vital element, it seems, was African rhythm. Because African and European music shared the diatonic scale, the music blended naturally; the whites had more harmony, the blacks more rhythm. From the lusty mixture sprang the Spiritual, Ragtime, ballads like "Ole Black Joe," Jazz Swing, new symphonic music, Bebop. Significant composers did not neglect nor despise such musical miscegenation.

This volume shows clearly how the diverse elements of New England Hymnody and African rhythm were blended into the art form that we now know as American music. Every student of American music must read Mr. Chase.

PHILIPPA SCHUYLER.



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## ARMED SERVICES & RACE

(Continued from page 287)

It's just that the school will get a bad name, and I'll never be able to get a good job when I graduate."

And I remember the Georgia boy and the New Tolerance that those like him are going to bring. And I recall the remarks made against the Navy and its totalitarianism. And I laugh.

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—ASSETS—

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Stocks and Bonds .....	1,538,562.15
Policy Loans, Mortgages and Real Estate .....	1,630,357.65
Interest, Rents and Premiums Due and Accrued .....	46,176.09
Total .....	\$3,322,188.27

—LIABILITIES—

Legal Reserve on Outstanding Policies .....	\$1,943,710.30
Reserved for Claims, Taxes, Dividends and Misc. ....	152,313.72
	\$2,096,024.02
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Total .....	\$3,322,188.27

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